UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/2070
30 January 1996

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General is concerned at sudden outbreak of tension between Greece and Turkey; urges both sides to exercise restraint and resolve differences peacefully.

* Special Representative says institutionalized violence in Haiti largely ended; says violent acts now criminal rather than politically motivated.

* Secretary-General says democratization of international relations one of most fundamental requirements for today's world.

* Special Representative for Afghanistan arrives in Kabul for talks with Government leaders; to meet with faction leaders; some aid reaches besieged capital where conditions still appalling.

* UNICEF's Executive-Director calls for partnership in struggle against "apartheid of gender".

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali is concerned at the sudden outbreak of tension between Greece and Turkey, as a result of incidents in the neighourhood of the uninhabited islet of Imia in the Aegean Sea, a United Nations spokesman said today. The Secretary-General believed the best way to avoid further escalation would be for both sides to avoid public statements which encouraged their citizens to initiate further incidents and to take steps to resolve their differences peacefully. On his instruction, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Marrack Goulding, met separately with the Charges D'Affairs of both Governments and urged them to exercise restraint.

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The Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Haiti, Lakhdar Brahimi, has expressed concern over the recent "flurry of violent events" in the country. However, he told correspondents today, there had been much progress in ending institutionalized violence in Haiti. Although there might be some acts of politically motivated violence there had been a substantial change for the

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better in the past eighteen months. There might not be a difference in the degree of violence, there was a difference in nature and it was now mainly criminal, he said. Haiti was becoming more and more a State ruled by law, which was not the case eighteen months ago, and he had no reason to doubt that trend would continue.

Meanwhile, a member of the United Nations Civilian Police Force (CIVPOL) was killed in Haiti yesterday. United Nations officials said the peace-keeper, who was from Benin, and a colleague were attacked near their car. A suspect who was wounded was being held as investigations began.

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The democratization of international relations was one of the most fundamental requirements for today's world, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a statement on receiving a "Letter of Peace", the Secretary-General said democratization of international relations should take place not only in bodies like the United Nations, but in all places where authority was exercised globally. The Letter was organized by a coalition of Spanish and Latin-American non-governmental organizations and sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The Secretary-General said the Letter was one of the most tangible manifestations of the role that international public opinion could play when mobilized in support of the ideals of the United Nations Charter. Everyone had a duty to push for democratic reforms at the international level, to welcome new protagonists of the global society and foster the birth of a new world community. It was only by mobilizing international public opinion that peace would really make progress, as peace was a culture which must take root in people's hearts.

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The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan, Mahmoud Mestiri, arrived in Kabul today and met with the Afghan Minister of Defense, according to a United Nations spokesman. Tomorrow, he will go to Kandahar to meet with leaders of the Taliban, an Afghan faction opposing the Government. Later, he will travel to the north to meet with another principle faction leader.

Meanwhile, the blockade of Kabul had eased slightly, as some humanitarian aid reached the city over the weekend, and another convoy paid a heavy toll to get through today, the spokesman said. However, the relief was not enough to alleviate the appalling conditions under which people were living in the besieged city. This winter was unusually harsh and families were abandoning their children in mosques because they unable to feed them. She said a United Nations appeal for $124 million for humanitarian aid for Afghanistan had received only $26.9 million.

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The Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Carol Bellamy, has called for greater cooperation in the struggle against the "apartheid of gender". Addressing the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, yesterday, she said UNICEF was committed to the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women -- which is monitored by the 23-member expert Committee. There was ample scope for greater collaboration on the implementation of both Conventions at the national and global level, she said.

The Chairman of the Committee, Ivanka Corti, expert from Italy, said that UNICEF could help publicize the anti-discrimination Convention, which was not very well known. Follow-up to the Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women was another opportunity for cooperation. Other experts said UNICEF should help raise awareness of women's rights, as children benefitted from any improvement in the situation of women.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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31 January 1996

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Security Council extends MINURSO mandate until 31 May; expresses deep concern at stalemate in identification process and lack of progress in Settlement Plan.

* Security Council authorizes deployment of 100 military observers to Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium.

* Security Council calls on Sudan to extradite suspects wanted in assassination attempt on Egyptian President and to desist from assisting, supporting and facilitating terrorist activities.

* Secretary-General recommends UNPREDEP in former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia become an independent mission reporting directly to UN Headquarters in New York.

* International Commission of Inquiry finds strong indications that Rwandan elements in Zaire are being trained to conduct incursions into Rwanda.

* Special Representative for Rwanda says there are underlying tensions in country, despite superficial signs of normalcy.

* NGO Committee is told Amnesty International should expand its area of concern to socio-economic rights.

* Concern expressed at WHO meeting over shrinking resources for rehabilitation of disabled people.

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The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) until 31 May. In unanimously adopting resolution 1042 (1996), the Council expressed deep concern about the stalemate which has been hindering the identification process and the consequent lack of progress towards completion of the Settlement Plan.

The Council called upon the two parties -- the Moroccan Government and the

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POLISARIO Front -- to cooperate with the Secretary-General and MINURSO in resuming the identification process, overcoming obstacles hindering its completion and implementing all other aspects of the Settlement Plan. The parties were encouraged to consider additional ways to create confidence between themselves and to facilitate the Settlement Plan's implementation.

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Also today, the Security Council authorized the deployment of 100 military observers to serve for six months with the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES). In unanimously adopting resolution 1043 (1996), the Council considered a letter from the Secretary-General dated 19 January. He said the observers were needed to help UNTAES facilitate the demilitarization provided for in the Basic Agreement, which was signed on 12 November by the Croatian Government and the local Serb authorities.

In an addendum to his letter, the Secretary-General said he would recommend that Member States bear the cost of the observers, which he estimated at $2.3 million. The observers will identify units and equipment to be demilitarized and also report on any developments relevant to the maintenance of peace and security. On 15 January, the Security Council established UNTAES with an initial military component of up to 5,000 troops.

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The Security Council today called upon the Government of Sudan to comply, without delay, to a request by the Organization of African States (OAU), to extradite to Ethiopia, three suspects wanted in connection with the June 1995 assassination attempt in Addis Ababa on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. It also called upon the Sudanese Government to desist from assisting, supporting and facilitating terrorist activities, and from sheltering or giving sanctuary to terrorist elements, and to act with its neighbours and others in conformity with the United Nations Charter and the OAU's Charter.

In unanimously adopting resolution 1044 (1996) the Council condemned the terrorist assassination attempt and deplored the flagrant violation of Ethiopia's sovereignty and integrity and the attempt to the disturb peace and security of the region. The Council commended Ethiopia's attempt to resolve the issue through bilateral and regional arrangements. It urged the international community to encourage Sudan to respond fully and effectively to the OAU requests. It asked the Secretary-General, in consultation with the OAU to seek the cooperation of Sudan and to report to the Council within 60 days.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the United

Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia become an independent mission reporting directly to UN headquarters in New York. The Force has been one of three peace-keeping missions in the former Yugoslavia. In a report to the Security Council dated 30 January, the Secretary-General suggested the move become effective as of 1 February. He said UNPREDEP had been originally deployed to counter the impact of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia from engulfing other areas. Although there was now little evidence of a direct or immediate threat to the Republic, the effect of existing tensions had not completely abated nor the danger of fragmentation averted.

The Secretary-General pointed out that the Force had contributed to alleviating the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's serious concerns about external security threats and a continuation of its mission was important for peace and security in the region. He said that UNPREDEP had demonstrated that preventive deployment could work when there was political will, a clear mandate and purpose, and the necessary commitment by parties concerned.

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There were strong indications that certain Rwandan elements in Zaire were being trained to conduct incursions into Rwanda, according to a report by the International Commission of Inquiry investigating the illegal training and arming of former Rwandan government forces. In its interim report to the Security Council, dated 29 January, the Commission said the incursions were having a destabilising effect on the country. The Council established the Commission last September to investigate reports that former Rwandan Government officials in the Great Lakes region of Africa were receiving arms -- in violation of a Council arms embargo -- and were being trained to destabilize Rwanda.

Although it was not yet able to confirm allegations that arms, ammunition and related materiel were sold or supplied to former Rwandan government forces, the Commission said it believed that Rwandan men were receiving military training to conduct destabilizing raids into their country, specifically on Iwawa Island, Rwanda. The Commission said it was also not able to reliably establish that specific governments, companies or individuals had aided or abetted the sale or supply of arms and related materiel.

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Despite superficial signs of normalcy in Rwanda there were undercurrents of deep concern and a great deal of tension in the country, according to the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Rwanda, Shahryar Khan. He told correspondents today, that schools and businesses were operating and many homes, destroyed in the violence which shattered the country 18 months ago, had been rebuilt. However, departures from the cabinet and country by a former Prime Minister and other Ministers indicated deeper tensions. The recent beating of three members of the International Criminal Tribunal raised questions about the

Government's ability to ensure the security of United Nations personnel working throughout the country.

There were also tensions along the border with Zaire as a result of infiltration, sabotage and an arms build-up, mainly in the Zairian refugee camps, but also in Tanzania, he said. The Rwandan Government had over-reacted to suspected saboteurs and news that innocent people were arrested had circulated in the camps and was affecting the voluntary return of refugees. Co-existence and tolerance could only begin if a large number of the 1.5 to 1.8 million refugees returned home to live peacefully, but that had not happened despite efforts by the humanitarian agencies.

On a positive note, 69 percent of the one billion dollars pledged by the international community for reconstruction in Rwanda had been disbursed, although the Government claimed too much aid was going to non-governmental organizations and criminals in the camps rather than the victims of genocide, Mr. Khan said. Justice was most important to allay fears that the forces of revenge and retribution would take over. The International Tribunal had begun issuing indictments to suspects responsible for the genocide and that would have an important psychological effect. However, the internal justice system was not working and the Government needed to be galvanized into re-establishing the judiciary.

If the situation in Burundi worsened and there was more killing, the spill-over was bound to affect Rwanda, he said. Although there were differences between the two countries, the international community should not delude itself that even a small explosion in Burundi would have no affect on its neighbour. Given the current serious situation in Burundi, tensions in the refugee camps would be alleviated by some kind of international presence whether it was guards, human rights monitors or some other presence, he added.

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Amnesty International should expand its areas of concern to include socio-economic and cultural rights, particularly the right to development, in light of the Vienna Declaration adopted by the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights, Cuba told the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations yesterday. The Committee, which is meeting at United Nations Headquarters, was reviewing quadrennial reports of organizations with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

The representative of China said that Amnesty International should objectively reflect the status of human rights in the world and pay attention to the overall situation of those rights in the United Nations. Other non-governmental organizations dealing with human rights in the United Nations should make the same effort. Indonesia said that as Amnesty International had acknowledged all human rights were interlinked and indivisible, it should be

asked to purvey economic rights. The United Kingdom, the United States and Ireland said it would be inappropriate to ask a non-governmental organization to broaden its area of interest unless its members decided to do so. Moreover, Amnesty International was not a party to the Vienna Declaration.

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Concern has been expressed over shrinking funds for rehabilitation programmes worldwide, by the Special Rapporteur of the United Nations Commission for Social Development on Disability, Bengt Lindqvist, who is also the former Swedish Minister for Social Development. He was speaking at a meeting in Geneva last week, between the Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Hiroshi Nakajima and representatives from leading international disabled persons' organizations.

Mr. Lindqvist, who is blind, said the disability community worldwide was concerned over declining resources for international programmes aimed at the medical and social rehabilitation of disabled people. Governments must ensure that such programmes continued. He stressed that, in comparison with other citizens, disabled people had a lower level of eduction, lower income and higher rates of unemployment. They were being unjustly marginalized in all societies. A WHO-developed concept of community-based rehabilitation has gained international recognition as an effective strategy to help the social integration of people with disabilities.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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1 February 1996

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Italian Ambassador says proposals to enlarge Security Council should consider interests, aspirations and potential contribution of all non-permanent Members.

* Secretary-General deplores loss of life in Sri-Lanka bombing.

* Only $72 million received in response to $169 million appeal for humanitarian aid for Iraq, as conditions in country deteriorate.

* Secretary-General appoints Special Representative and Coordinator of United Nations operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

* World Food Summit to be held at FAO headquarters in Rome in November.

* Report on raped, widowed and landless women in Rwanda presented to Committee on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

* UNCTAD's Secretary-General says its focus should be on central development issues where there can be real impact, especially in least developed countries.

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There was no consensus between the countries of the European Union on Security Council reform, according to the Permanent Representative of Italy, Francesco Paolo Fulci. He told correspondents today that enlargement of the Council was the most divisive issue in United Nations reform and the positions of different countries were very far apart and very entrenched. Outlining a number of proposals, he said one "quick fix" was to assign additional permanent seats to two industrialized countries from the northern hemisphere. Another, the "two plus three formula", proposed assigning two additional seats to northern countries and one each to Asia, Africa and Latin America.

A more radical formula to address the present imbalance in the Council, proposed assigning additional permanent seats only to developing countries, which his country opposed. Mr. Fulci said the best way to combat a state of "eternal

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privilege" was not to extend that privilege to other countries, because it would only demoralize and discourage those who made sizable contributions in funding and troops to the United Nations. A range of other ideas fell in the "great middle way". Italy had proposed a compromise that took into account the interests, aspirations and potential contributions of the greatest possible number of countries -- the 180, who were not permanent members of the Council.

The Council must be brought into step with the modern world, Ambassador Fulci continued. Since the last reform of the Council, some 30 years ago, 100 or so former colonies had become full-fledged members of the Organization and a democratic solution must be found to address that situation. Care should be taken not to open old wounds and revive the north south confrontation. Members must strive for a truly democratic reform not an elitist one. He said Italy, which was the sixth largest contributor to the United Nations regular budget, had paid its 1996 dues of $57,440,000, as well as approximately $72 million to the peace-keeping budget. In 1998, Italy would become the fifth largest contributor to the regular budget, paying more than three present permanent Council members, including the United Kingdom.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today expressed dismay over the loss of life in Wednesday's bombing in Colombo, Sri Lanka, a United Nations spokesman said. The Secretary-General deplored acts that targeted civilians and stressed the need to find an early negotiated political solution to Sri Lanka's conflict, which continued to inflict great suffering on the country.

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The response to a United Nations humanitarian appeal for Iraq has been extremely limited, with only $72 million pledged to a revised appeal for $169.3 million, according to the Department of Humanitarian Affairs. Delegates to a Geneva meeting of various UN agencies stressed that conditions were deteriorating in Iraq, particularly in the central and southern parts of the country, where food aid and health related requirements were increasing. They appealed urgently to donor governments to provide funding for humanitarian assistance for Iraq.

The agencies expressed serious concern over the rapidly widening gap between growing needs among the most vulnerable sectors of the Iraqi population and the international community's shrinking financial contributions to the humanitarian programme in the country. A substantial amount of aid up to the end of last year has been funded from frozen Iraqi assets deposited in the United Nations Escrow Account. Additional funds are unlikely to be made available from that account, thus affecting many ongoing assistance programmes.

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The Secretary-General has appointed Iqbal Riza as his Special Representative and Coordinator of United Nations operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mr. Riza, of Pakistan, has been Assistant Secretary-General in the Department of Peace-keeping Operations since March 1993. Previously, he was the Secretary-General's Special Representative and Chief of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL). He will leave for Sarajevo over the weekend.

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A climate of peace must be established in Rwanda before there could be true reconciliation for its 500,000 widowed women and 400,000 orphaned children, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women was told yesterday. Rwanda's Director for the Promotion of Women, Venantie Mukarugomwa, said many had been raped, physically disabled and forced to witness killings of family members in the carnage which engulfed the country in 1994. Others had become infertile because of botched abortions and most women had no access to health facilities.

Under customary law in Rwanda, women could not inherit land and a majority had encountered extreme difficulty in retaining their property after the death of their male relatives, she said. Moreover, 67 per cent of women were illiterate. Legislation was being reformed to enable women to own land.

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A World Food Summit will be held at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Headquarters in Rome from 13 to 17 November. The meeting of Heads of State and Government will aim for a global commitment on policies and strategies to eradicate hunger worldwide. There is growing international concern about declining world cereal production, rising costs and a drop in food aid supplies. Some 800 million people in the developing world, 200 million of them women and children, were chronically undernourished. Millions more suffered debilitating diseases because of nutritional deficiencies and contaminated food and water.

World food production will have to increase by more than 75 per cent over the next 30 years to keep pace with population growth, according to the FAO's Director-General, Jacques Diouf. "It is unacceptable that hunger and malnutrition continue to diminish the human potential of nearly 20 per cent of the people on earth in an age when we explore the planets and beyond." he said. The very survival of humanity depends on world food security. Practical solutions at the national and international level could dramatically alter the future course of hunger, he said and proposed increased production for self-sufficiency in areas where food is needed most.

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The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) should focus more sharply on important development issues where it could have an impact, according to UNCTAD's Secretary-General Rubens Ricupero. In a report for the UNCTAD IX Conference, which will be held in South Africa in April, he said his organization could foster growth, reduce inequality and build capacity to improve the lives of half the world's population, especially in the least developed countries (LDCs). Greater involvement by the private sector, transnational companies, private investors, non-government organizations, universities and research centres could make UNCTAD a model agency for the twenty-first century.

Mr. Ricupero said the objective of the Conference was to maximize the benefits of globalization, which would allow two billion people in developing countries to participate actively in the world economy, while helping millions more avoid being shut out from the "promise of prosperity." About 2,500 participants, led by ministers from all countries, are expected to attend the Conference.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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2 February 1996

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

* Secretary-General recommends extension of UNAVEM III until 8 August; says bold measures by parties in Angola needed to make peace process irreversible.

* Secretary-General says United Nations has useful role to play in Rwanda even though UNAMIR's mandate will end 8 March.

* Secretary-General says Niger must return to democracy and rule of law.

* Delegates to Conference on Disarmament welcome France's decision to stop nuclear testing and urge China to follow suit.

* Human Rights in Tibet used as a pretext for political attacks, China tells Non-Governmental Organization Committee.

* Habitat II's final preparatory session to be held at UN Headquarters February 5 to 16; UNDP sponsors roundtable meeting on urban poverty for mayors from developing countries.

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The failure of past attempts to bring peace to Angola underscored the need for international involvement and encouragement, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a report to the Security Council, dated 31 January, he recommended the mandate of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) be extended until 8 August. He said the pace of the peace process had been disappointingly slow. However, Government steps in recent weeks were encouraging. He urged the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) to respond positively, first by a large-scale and fully verifiable movement of its troops to quartering areas. There was no excuse for further delays in the release of prisoners or in providing information to the United Nations as required by the Lusaka Protocol, he added.

Bold measures by the Angolan Government and UNITA were needed to make the peace process irreversible, the Secretary-General continued. Military

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talks must be concluded urgently, with workable and fair agreements on the incorporation of UNITA troops in the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA), and the gradual demobilization of its other forces. The FAA soldiers must accelerate their withdrawal to the nearest barracks and complete the quartering of the rapid reaction police. Joint demining and opening of roads, and the free circulation of people throughout the country, was imperative for national reconciliation, the Secretary-General said. He urged President Jose E. dos Santos and UNITA leader Mr. Jonas Savimbi to meet as soon as possible to promote mutual confidence and resolve outstanding differences.

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The United Nations has a useful role to play in Rwanda, even though the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) will end on 8 March, according to the Secretary-General. In a report to the Security Council, dated 30 January, he said the Government had indicated that the country's overwhelming needs required the international community's attention and assistance. Despite combined efforts of UNAMIR and other UN agencies, particularly the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the repatriation of Rwandan refugees was very slow. Long-term peace would be elusive as long as large concentrations of Rwandan nationals were encamped in neighbouring countries, he said and welcomed regional initiatives to solve the problem.

Genuine peace and reconciliation also depended on efforts by the Government and the international community to end the prevailing environment of impunity by bringing those guilty of genocide and massacres to justice, the Secretary-General said. The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda had issued its first indictments and the Rwandan Supreme Court was reactivating the country's judiciary. There had been progress towards reconstruction, rehabilitation and development, but much remained to be done. The Secretary-General said his Special Representative was examining, with the Government and United Nations agencies, the possible nature and mandate of a UN presence in the country after UNAMIR's mandate expired. He noted that the number of staff with the UN human rights field operation in Rwanda had fallen from 120 to 93 in the last twelve months, because of a drop in voluntary contributions.

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The Secretary-General said today it was important for Niger to return soon to democracy and the rule of law, according to a United Nations spokesman. In a meeting with Niger's Permanent Representative, Adamou Seydou, the Secretary-General said he was aware of the appointment of a civilian cabinet but such a measure was not sufficient. He expressed the hope that the authorities in Niamey would space no effort to restore the image of a democratic Niger.

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Delegates to the Conference on Disarmament welcomed France's decision to end its nuclear tests in the South Pacific and urged China to end its tests. The Conference is meeting in Geneva. Several speakers also welcomed the formal consent to ratification of the second Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START II) by the United States Senate last month and called on the Russian Federation's Parliament to do the same.

Australia said it was extremely regrettable that the tests ever took place and the onus was now on France to rebuild the international confidence necessary for further progress on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The representative of Japan regretted that as many as six tests were conducted, despite repeated appeals from the international community and she hoped France would redouble its efforts towards an early conclusion of the test-ban treaty.

The representative of France said her country had shown the utmost restraint in conducting the nuclear testing campaign. An independent mission of experts would visit the test site and France would sign the protocols of the 1985 South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Rarotonga). Sweden's Minister for Foreign Affairs said further tests could seriously undermine work achieved in the conclusion of a comprehensive test-ban treaty. She welcomed France's decision to end all tests and urged China to follow that example.

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The main challenge facing the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) was how to defuse the threat to international peace and security caused by the shelter crisis in cities and rural areas, according to its Secretary-General, Wally N'Dow. The Conference will be held in Istanbul, Turkey in June. Its final preparatory session, which will begin on Monday at UN Headquarters, will finalize a draft statement of principles and a global plan of action, entitled the "Habitat Agenda". The document will provide guidelines for the sustainable development of the world's cities, towns and villages for the next 25 years.

Meanwhile, mayors from developing countries are expected to participate in a roundtable discussion at Headquarters on February 6, to discuss urban poverty. The event, which is sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is one of a series of activities taking place during the final preparatory session for the Habitat II.

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The so-called issue of human rights in Tibet was being used as a cover for attempts to divide a sovereign State, China, in violation Economic and Social Council resolutions, the representative of China told the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations yesterday. He said Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) barred organizations from using their consultative status to launch political attacks against Member States. Yet, Human Rights Advocates, an organization with consultative status, had attacked China on the question of Tibet at human rights forums in 1991 and 1992 and accused China of occupying Tibet. Those positions were incorrect he said.

The Committee recommended that the Council grant Category II status to ISIS International Women's Information and Communication Service, which is based in the Philippines. The Service was founded in 1974, to promote women's empowerment and participation in development and policy-making, and to build links among women worldwide so they could take part in community development. Non-governmental organizations with Category I and II consultative status are required to report every four years on their work in support of the United Nations.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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5 February 1996

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General says human rights situation in Haiti dramatically improved; MICIVIH can help consolidate institutional reforms and deepen democratic process.

* Secretary-General tells Habitat II Preparatory Committee to be creative, imaginative and practical.

* United Nations will run out of cash by end of 1996, says Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management.

* Committee to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women concludes 1996 session; adopts report containing recommendations on 9 countries.

* New WHO/UNICEF study says maternal mortality figures substantially underestimated.

* WFP needs $155 million for Rwandan and Burundi refugees, returnees and displaced people.

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The Human rights situation in Haiti has improved dramatically, because of institutional reforms, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a report to the Security Council, dated 25 January, the Secretary-General said the armed forces had been replaced by a civilian police force and a penal administration and the authorities had made efforts, even if timid, to uphold accountability. However, there are still serious weaknesses in old and new institutions which helped protect human rights. Prison conditions had been improved extensively, but were still below acceptable international norms, and the Haitian judiciary needed urgent, large-scale reform. Persistent incidents of summary "justice" was also a concern and underlined the public's continued lack of confidence in public security and the judicial system.

The Secretary-General said the International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH), because of its extensive field experience and expertise, could help consolidate key structures charged with respect for human rights and deepen

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the incipient democratic process. He suggested in its next phase, the Mission focus on two areas: First, it could provide technical assistance to government and institutional bodies, including the police, the penal institution, the Ministry of Justice, and the legislature to help consolidate long-term human rights protection. Second, it could develop a programme to promote and protect basic human rights, that would include tolerance and peaceful conflict-resolution, as well as understanding of the role of the citizen, the State and democratic government institutions.

The Secretary-General said he expected the Haitian Government to request MICIVIH's mandate be extended beyond 7 February. Given the 1996-97 programme budget, and the continued cash-flow crisis, the General Assembly would have to appropriate additional funds to cover the cost of MICIVIH for a further mandate period and provide assurances that the funds would be available in the time.

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The Secretary-General told the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) to be creative, imaginative and practical, as it began its final session today. Stressing the importance of concerted action and broad-based planning, he said the Committee's final document should be vital and vibrant and provide realistic and attainable goals to which all nations can subscribe and which all cities can implement. The Committee will prepare a draft statement of principles and a global plan of action for Habitat II, which will be held in Istanbul, Turkey in June.

Coordination and integration were needed to maximize policy coherence and impact, and were a must at a time of mounting resource constraints and the UN's deepening financial crisis, he continued. He noted a ground-breaking rule change, which allowed all relevant partners, especially local authorities, to present their views at the Conference and broaden Member States participation to include representatives from their cities. Local governments, non-governmental and private representatives had shown extraordinary interest in Habitat II.

A computerized Ideas Bank would ensure the Conference would not dwell on problems but produce solutions, he continued. It would be creative, workable and motivate the world to make sustainable human settlements the rule and not the exception in the next century. Many countries were preparing plans of action on urban problems, but few had examined in detail, the needs of their cities and towns. Fewer had the opportunity to devise long-range strategies. Over 150 countries, actively preparing for the Conference, had the foresight and political will to shape a new urban world, he continued. There were also new partners, including local authorities, private companies, non-government

organizations, women's and youth groups, religious bodies, academic institutions and the press.

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By the end of the year the United Nations will have run out of cash, according to current forecasts, the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, Joseph Connor said today. In mid-1996, the regular United Nations budget would reach a negative cash position and then go into a deep decline. He was addressing the High-Level Open-Ended Working Group on the Financial Situation of the United Nations. Unpaid assessments had continued to rise very steeply and now totalled over $3.3 billion. As of today 26 countries had paid their contributions in full and 16 had made partial payments. "The United Nations chronic illness -- paying out more than it takes in -- has now become acute," he added.

Mr. Connor said that after exhausting the Working Capital Fund and the Special Account, it had been necessary to borrow continually and extensively from peace-keeping operations to fund the regular budget from early August till the end of 1995. By 31 December, the borrowings totalled the unprecedented amount of $176 million. The UN had never before reached year-end without repaying peace-keeping operations. And that borrowing source was diminishing, he stressed. Total peace-keeping assessments were expected to be lower in 1996, which would exacerbate cash flow, with less money to pay old bills and cover regular budget shortfalls. Without any further borrowing for the regular budget, available peace-keeping cash would continue to diminish and by the end of this year would reach a record low of $340 million, barely enough to meet two months requirements.

For years, the UN had been forced by the non-payment of Member States assessments to spend beyond its means in order to fulfill mandates approved by those Members, Mr. Connor continued. The scale must be balanced, and Members must bring their commitments in line with their expectations. The 1996-97 budget already contained a significant commitment to do more with less and provided for all the mandates without an increase in cost. There had been cost reductions of $98 million, including efficiency gains identified by the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget; $104 million more in efficiency gains he was determined to address during the biennium; and an additional $50 million, through arbitrary reductions in General Service staff funding. The result would be $250 million in real savings to produce a zero growth budget and an estimated 10 per cent drop in personnel levels over 1994-95.

Those requirements placed enormous pressure on the Secretary-General to handle a significant down-sizing and further efficiency gains without affecting programme delivery, he said. Significant cash savings by further fine-tuning programmes costs could not be achieved. The United Nations was

facing a financing gap, not a cost reduction gap. "Doing more with less did not mean doing everything with nothing", he added. By the end of June 1996, the combined regular and peace-keeping cash on hand would be $627 million, which would drop to $195 million by September and to minus $80 million on 31 December.

* * *

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women concluded its fifteenth session on Friday, by adopting its final report which contains recommendations on 9 countries -- Cyprus, Paraguay, Iceland, Ethiopia, Cuba, Belgium, Ukraine, Hungary and Rwanda. The 23-member expert Committee monitors the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. The Committee decided to revise its guidelines for reports of States parties on compliance with the Convention. It also decided to draw attention to Habitat II and the discrimination suffered by women in settlements development.

Committee Chairman Ivanka Corti said it had been invited to collaborate with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), on bringing together treaty bodies, to discuss how to monitor implementation of the reproductive and sexual health aspects of the plans of actions from the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women. The Committee stated that two three-week sessions annually were needed to alleviate its heavy workload.

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A major new study indicates that maternal mortality has been substantially underestimated. According to a joint World Health Organization (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) study there are nearly 80,000 more pregnancy-related deaths per year than previously reported. Some 585,000 maternal deaths occur in the world each year, 99 per cent of them in developing countries.

Most maternal deaths -- about 55 per cent -- occur in Asia which accounts for 61 per cent of the world's births. However, Africa, which has 20 per cent of births, accounts for 40 per cent of maternal deaths. By contrast, developed countries, with 11 per cent of all births, have less than 1 per cent of total maternal deaths.

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The World Food Programme (WFP) needs an additional $155 million to continue its relief assistance to some 2.4 million Rwandan and Burundi

refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons. The United States has already pledged 100,000 metric tons of food out of 136,000 tonnes needed for 1996, leaving a shortfall of more than 250,000 tonnes, the agency said.

In its latest appeal for the Great Lakes region of Africa, the WFP has focused on the return and repatriation of refugees, and rehabilitation activities, including repair of economic and environmental damage caused by the refugee crisis. Last year, some 200,000 refugees, including those forcibly expelled by the Zaire, returned to Burundi and Rwanda. The WFP and other agencies are optimistic a significant number will return in 1996.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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6 February 1996

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General says UN on edge of insolvency; calls for special General Assembly session on financial crisis; suggests 15 to 20 per cent ceiling on assessments.

- UNDP and Department of Humanitarian Affairs allocate funds to aid Chinese earthquake victims.

- Habitat II Preparatory Committee begins final session.

- Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations concludes 1995 resumed session; recommends withdrawal of consultative status of 12 organizations.

- Civilian and military personnel serving with UNAVEM III struck by malaria.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today called for a special session of the General Assembly to address the United Nations financial crisis. He said the Organization was trapped in a downward spiral of events in which one problem created another, and the combination of problems worked against a rational solution. Addressing the High-Level Open-Ended Working Group on the United Nations Financial Situation, he said the UN must change substantially if it were to be regarded by Member States as providing good value in return for their assessments. That could not be achieved unless the downward spiral was broken.

The financial crisis had brought the United Nations to the edge of insolvency, the Secretary-General said. It faced challenges in its finances, scale of assessments, budget, structure and administration, which had to be approached realistically and rationally. Stressing that he would do everything to avoid financial collapse, he said only Member States could take the major decisions necessary. Unpaid assessments now exceeded $3.3 billion and the United Nations owed about $1 billion to countries that had contributed troops and equipment to peace-keeping operations. It could no longer shift funds from the peace-keeping budget to meet shortfalls elsewhere. He would appeal to the heads of Government to make up their arrears and ask them for a proposed payment plan.

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The current scale of assessments was at the heart of any approach to address long-term dimensions of the crisis, the Secretary-General continued. The scale should reflect current political and economic realities and the United Nations global nature. A ceiling of 20 per cent, or even 15 per cent, on the assessed contribution of any Member State to the regular budget, would provide for a more even distribution and would better reflect the fact that the Organization was the instrument of all nations.

The General Assembly had approved a 1996-97 budget requiring additional cuts of $154 million that could only be achieved by reducing staff and non-staff costs. The Secretary-General said that would impact on activities and services provided to Member States. Department heads had been asked to realize those reductions and identify further savings. He was committed to reducing expenditures to the level approved by the General Assembly, while minimizing the effect on programmes and improving efficiency. He was also committed to minimizing the impact on the staff. "We must not undermine the international civil service." he stressed.

Serious Secretariat efforts to deal with the reduced budget must be accompanied by equally serious efforts by Member States to finance the activities and programmes they had approved in the budget, he said. Certain basic structural issues must be addressed including: composition and procedures of the Security Council; the relationship between the Council and the General Assembly; the future of the Trusteeship Council and the role of the Economic and Social Council. He had already undertaken a number of reform measures. His objective was a more integrated Organization, which could focus on the major tasks of peace-keeping, human rights, humanitarian assistance and development and their growing linkages.

Action on the financial crisis was the key to progress, the Secretary-General said. As long as it remained unresolved all other efforts to cut back, reform or restructure could not possibly succeed and the fate of the United Nations was in danger. He pledged to do everything to find a solution but said there were decisions only Member States could make. The budget in relation to the size, scope and significance of United Nations activities was remarkable small. He appealed to the international community to provide the financial under-pinning to enable continuing reform.

* * *

The United Nations is providing China with funds to aid earthquake victims in its Hunnan province, a United Nations spokesman said today. The Department of Humanitarian Affairs would be the focal point for relief activities and had already given $50,000 from its emergency fund. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) had also allocated $50,000 from one of its special funds. The Norwegian Government had contributed $50,000 and the Russian Federation was making four transport planes available to help with relief supplies.

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Many present development trends were damaging urban environments, according to the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). Martti Lujanen said yesterday that more than a billion people were inadequately housed, fresh water was diminishing, and air pollution and traffic congestion were increasing. While many trends were bleak, he was confident the Conference would have an enormous impact.

The Secretary-General of the Conference, Wally N'Dow, said that Habitat II would affect the major issues of the world today -- jobs, housing, security, services, the quality of the living environment and the right of ordinary people to have a say in decisions affecting their lives. Habitat II will be held in Istanbul, Turkey in June.

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The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations has recommended that the Economic and Social Council withdraw the consultative status of 12 organizations. The Committee, which concluded its 1995 resumed session on Friday, also recommended the Council grant Category II status to ISIS International (Chile) and ISIS International Women's Information and Communications Service (Philippines). It deferred action on the International Energy Foundation.

* * *

Approximately a thousand civilian and military personnel serving with the United Nations Angolan Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) have been affected by malaria in the last year, a United Nations spokesman said today. Two Brazilian soldiers died from cerebral malaria several weeks ago, she said, adding that some staff had been forgetting to take preventive medication. About 7,000 people are currently serving with the UN Mission.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General says UNTAES must receive adequate resources as failure in Croatia could seriously undermine international operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

* International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia asks Bosnian Government to arrest two senior military officers.

* Future UN peace-keeping missions must be given adequate force and military capability, says former UNPROFOR Mission Head.

* Secretary-General congratulates new Haitian President Rene Preval; praises outgoing leader Jean-Bertrand Aristide for handing over power.

* Talks between United Nations and Iraq on "oil-for-food" formula begin in New York.

* Secretary-General appoints Yasushi Akashi as new Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs.

* United Nations launches $107.6 million inter-agency appeal for emergency humanitarian assistance to Sudan.

* Hundreds of American school children to visit UN on electronic field trip.

* * *

Adequate resources for the United Nations mission in Croatia were crucial, as failure there would not only be disastrous for the local population, but could seriously undermine and even lead to the failure of international operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a report to the Security Council, dated 6 February, on UN operations throughout the former Yugoslavia, he expressed particular concern that the new international effort in Bosnia did not deflect from the need for substantial resources for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES). The Mission must receive constant cooperation from the parties, he stressed. Mutual recognition between Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) could be the most

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important factor in ensuring a peaceful transition in the region and the return of refugees and displaced persons.

The Secretary-General expressed concern at continuing difficulties in establishing the Federation in Bosnia and Herzegovina as a viable and harmonious entity. While there was full commitment at the intergovernmental level, constant nurturing, encouragement and support at the local level was needed, he said. An experienced UN presence throughout Bosnia, working closely with IFOR, would contribute substantially to the common cause. The Serb exodus from parts of Sarajevo was a matter of great concern. Destruction of property, prior to departure, was short-sighted and reduced the chances of return or compensation. In Croatia, the Government was primarily responsible for protecting the human rights of all its people.

The Secretary-General said he would maintain a sufficient, but lean and cost-effective staffing structure appropriate to the mandate of the new missions. He would terminate the post of Special Representative for the former Yugoslavia and phase out that office by the end of February. Residual political support and liaison functions in Croatia would be handled by the new Zagreb Liaison office.

* * *

The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, Richard Goldstone, has asked the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina to provisionally arrest, on behalf of the Tribunal, General Djordje Djukic and Colonel Aleksa Krmanovic. Judge Goldstone, who received information on activities by the two suspects in connection with crimes falling within the Tribunal's jurisdiction, is considering whether to indict them. A decision will be made in a few days on other people who have been arrested recently by the Bosnian authorities.

Under international law, particularly the Genocide Convention and the Geneva Conventions, countries are obliged to investigate and bring to trial, anyone who has committed serious violations of international criminal law. The Security Council recognized that the Tribunal and national courts have concurrent jurisdiction and gave primacy of jurisdiction to the Tribunal.

* * *

Peace-keepers involved in an internal conflict must be given adequate force and the military capability to act, otherwise the United Nations would be humiliated, the former Mission Head for the United Nations Protection Forces (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Antonio Pedauye said today. He told correspondents that from the moment a rapid reaction force with 155 millimetre guns had been stationed on Mount Igman, outside Sarajevo, there had been a different dialogue in town. The parties understood that the force would use the

guns and take casualties if necessary. There was a price to pay for peace, and with 150 dead and 1,000 wounded, UNPROFOR had paid it.

Mr. Pedauye said it had been wrong to call UNPROFOR a peace-keeping operation because there had never been a peace to keep or even a cease-fire to monitor until last October. Paradoxically, now there was a peace to keep, the Implementation Force (IFOR), which was basically a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) military operation, had the resources and means to do the job. The United Nations had operated under extremely difficult circumstances, with a limited mandate and ability to use force. The "safe areas" were never safe. They were threatened areas and UNPROFOR had been asked not to defend them, but to deter attacks with only 7,000 soldiers a year after the Secretary-General had asked for 34,000 troops.

The United Nations had not participated in the Dayton peace negotiations, even as an observer, yet it had been given a mandate to establish the International Police Task Force (IPTF) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, he said. The UN had to practice "begging diplomacy" and ask Member States for good policemen, deploy and train them, and provide interpreters. There was freedom of movement for IFOR, the UN and the humanitarian agencies along a supply corridor but it would be a long time before there was real freedom of movement for civilians. After four years of war, homogeneity and ethnic purity had increased considerably and there were now only small islands of multi-ethnicity in such places Tuzla, and in Sarajevo, where it would probably end, as Serbs had already began a mass exodus, Mr. Pedauye said.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today congratulated the new Haitian President, Rene Preval on his inauguration and wished him success in the responsibilities he was undertaking, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Secretary-General said he was certain that under President Preval's impetus, Haiti would continue its progress along the path to democracy and national reconciliation.

The Secretary-General commended former Haitian President Jean- Bertrand Aristide for his great democratic gesture in handing over power to a successor and said it was proof that the country was moving even closer to becoming a democratic state.

* * *

Negotiations between the United Nations and Iraq on the "oil- for-food" formula began at UN Headquarters yesterday, according to a spokesman for the Organization. The talks are on the implementation of Security Council resolution 986 (1995), which permits the sale of a limited amount of Iraqi oil -- up to $2 million over six months -- in exchange for food and medicine.

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Before the discussions began, United Nations Legal Counsel Under-Secretary-General Hans Correll met in private with the head of the Iraqi delegation, Ambassador Abdul Amir Al-Anbari, the spokesman said. The delegations discussed procedural matters and analyzed relevant documentation and took note of some salient points to be discussed at a later stage. The discussions, which continued today, were held in a business-like and positive atmosphere, the spokesman added.

* * *

The Secretary-General has appointed Yasushi Akashi as Under-Secretary-General of Humanitarian Affairs, effective 1 March, a United Nations spokesman said today. Mr. Akashi will succeed Peter Hansen, who was recently appointed Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Mr. Akashi, who is currently serving as Special Adviser to the Secretary-General, was previously his Special Representative in the former Yugoslavia and in Cambodia.

The Secretary-General has also decided to appoint Ambassador Jin Yongjian as Under-Secretary-General for Development and Support Services, effective 15 March. Mr. Jin is currently serving as China's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva. He replaces Ji Chaozhu, who returns to national service.The spokesman said Ismat Kittani will return to the Office of the Secretary-General as Special Advisor and Kofi Annan will resume his functions as Under-Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Operations.

* * *

The United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs today launched a consolidated inter-agency appeal for $107.6 million for humanitarian assistance to Sudan in 1996. The appeal will provide food relief to 2.1 million war-affected and displaced people in the south of the country. Another 4.25 million persons will benefit from programmes which provide nutrition, health and water.

* * *

Students from across the United States will get a rare, behind-the-scenes look at the United Nations when they take part in a two-day electronic field trip beginning tomorrow. Turner Educational Services, Inc. (TESI), in conjunction with the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) and with the cooperation of the Department of Public Information (DPI) have collaborated on the live, interactive field trip to the UN. Designed as a first-hand learning experience, it will integrate broadcast, cable and computer technologies to offer students a unique learning experience without leaving the classroom.

There will be an hour-long preview programme, a live, on location telecast each day and on-line forums for students on America Online (keyword: CNN) and the World Wide Web (http://www.turner.com/tesi/) with United Nations resource people and others on site and in the field before, during and after the live telecast. Titled the United Nations at 50 Years, the field trip will focus on the Organization's purpose and functions and its role today. The Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, and the Permanent Representative of the United States, Madeleine Albright, will be among the guests.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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8 February 1996

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Security Council extends UNAVEM III mandate until 8 May; reminds Angolan Government and UNITA of obligations to peace process.

* Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight says staff cuts of more than 10 per cent could affect United Nations' ability to implement its mandates and programmes.

* Special Human Rights Rapporteur appeals to Nigerian Government over arrest of two lawyers.

* Iraqi delegation outlines urgent food and medical needs during ongoing "oil for food" talks at United Nations Headquarters.

* * *

The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) until 8 May. In unanimously adopting resolution 1045 (1996), the Council expressed concern at numerous delays in implementing the Lusaka Protocol and reminded the Angolan Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), of their obligation to consolidate the peace process. It urged them to maintain the cease-fire, conclude talks on integrating the armed forces, undertake demining and start integrating UNITA personnel into administrative and government institutions. UNAVEM III was established in February 1995 to help the Angolan Government and UNITA restore peace and national reconciliation. The Protocol covers military, legal and political issues the parties agreed on during peace talks. One of the main military issues concerns the demilitarization and quartering of UNITA forces.

The Council welcomed Angolan Government efforts to cease offensive operations, withdraw its troops from offensive positions near UNITA's quartering areas, release all prisoners of war, begin quartering its rapid reaction police and terminate contracts of expatriate personnel. Noting UNITA's public commitment to quarter its troops expeditiously and comprehensively, the Council expressed deep concern at the slow pace of the quartering and disarming. It reiterated that the quartering of UNITA forces was a first step in its transformation to a legitimate political party and crucial to the peace process.

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The Council urged UNITA to proceed immediately with the orderly, large-scale and verifiable movement of its troops to quartering areas in strict adherence to the new timetable agreed to by the parties on 9 January and to complete quartering before the new mandate expired. The Secretary-General was asked to report to the Council by 7 March, 4 April and 1 May, on concrete steps taken by the Angolan Government and UNITA towards implementing the goals and timetable they have agreed to.

* * *

The Under-Secretary-General of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), Karl Paschke, said today a looming financial crisis did not make meaningful management reforms -- the more effective and efficient delivery of services -- easier or more likely. He told correspondents that it was feasible to cut staff levels by 10 per cent, without dramatically affecting the United Nations work, however, further reductions would affect its ability to implement programmes. Most of the Organization's activities were mandated by legislative bodies and it was not for the Secretariat to cut programmes without approval by the General Assembly.

Mr. Paschke said enhanced oversight had become a meaningful and important part of the United Nations management culture, although internal controls were not as strong as they should be and some managers did not yet fully understand that internal oversight was a managerial duty. His office also had a proactive and advisory role and in coming months would teach and assist managers by giving them the tools to enhance self-evaluation and monitoring as a basic duty. For example, the Office had helped the Department of Peace-Keeping Operations (DPKO) to improve its ability to apply past experience to the next operational phase and a lessons-learned unit had been set up. A new computer system allowed more effective follow-up on his Office's recommendations.

* * *

A Special Rapporteur on Human Rights has sent an urgent appeal to the Nigerian Government over the arrest of two lawyers. Dato'Param Cumaraswamy, who was appointed by the Commission on Human Rights to examine the independence of judges and lawyers, expressed deep concern over the alleged harassment and persecution of the Nigerian lawyers for carrying out their professional duties.

Gani Fawehimni, a lawyer who is challenging the constitutionality of a special tribunal which is to try 19 Ogoni leaders on charges of murder and the constitutionality of the trials and executions of Ken Saro-Wiwa and 8 other Ogoni activists, was arrested on 30 January. Olisa Agbakoba, a human rights lawyer who represented Ken Saro-Wiwa and the other activists, was reportedly detained and interrogated by police after his return from abroad.

* * *

The United Nations and Iraq continued discussions today on implementation of Security Council Resolution 986 (1995), which permits the sale of up to $2 billion worth of Iraqi oil over six months in exchange for food and medicine. A percentage of the oil revenue will go the United Nations Compensation Committee Fund in Geneva to help workers who suffered as a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

A United Nations spokesman said that the Iraqi representatives appraised the UN delegation of food rationing and the distribution of medical supplies in the country and also presented documents on their urgent requirements for food, medicine and electricity.

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UNITED NATIONS

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General sends Special Envoy to Sudan for discussions on combatting terrorism.

* Conference on Disarmament told linking nuclear weapons elimination to comprehensive test-ban treaty threatens both goals.

* International Police Task Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina expects to be fully operational by end of May.

* UNDP calls for action to combat global threat of desertication.

* Signs of economic recovery in countries in transition, according to new UN study.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Chali will send Under-Secretary-General Chinmaya Gharekhan, as his Special Envoy to Sudan to discuss with the Government efforts to combat terrorism in the region, as well as the recently adopted Security Council resolution 1044 (1996), a United Nations spokesman said today. The resolution calls for Sudan to cooperate in extraditing to Ethiopia, suspects in the June 1995 assassination attempt on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa. The Council asked the Secretary-General to report on the resolution's implementation within 60 days.

* * *

The International Police Task Force (IPTF) for Bosnia and Herzegovina is expected to be fully operational by the end of May, a United Nations spokesman said today. Already, 2,100 police monitors have been pledged for the Force, which has an authorized strength of 1,721. Civilian police will also serve with the United Nations Transitional Authority for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES), which has been promised 160 out of the 600 officers needed.

At a meeting yesterday, the United Nations urged civilian police contributors to expedite the sending of police officers. Contributors said they would try to send only well-qualified officers, as there have been problems with

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some unskilled police recruits, the spokesman said. The police receive a one-week training programme in Zagreb.

* * *

Linking a comprehensive test-ban treaty (CTBT) to a time-bound framework for the elimination of nuclear weapons would threaten both goals, the United States representative, Stephen J. Ledogar told the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, yesterday. His Government and many others were dismayed by the call by the Non-Aligned Movement summit in Cartagena, Colombia, last October, to link the two issues. What did "time-bound framework" mean, he asked, and how would it affect nuclear capable or "threshold" States, which unlike NPT States, had no treaty commitments?

Mr. Ledogar said the five declared nuclear weapon States were not all ready to respond to the challenge of multilateral negotiations. The United States and the Russian Federation had conducted successful bilateral efforts to reduce their nuclear arsenals, and France and the United Kingdom had taken unilateral disarmament steps. China, however, continued nuclear testing and the build-up in its nuclear arsenal. The representative of China, Sha Zukang, said it was understandable if non-nuclear-weapons-States expressed concern over Chinese testing. But the United States was not qualified to lecture China on the very limited amount of nuclear weapons it possessed for self-defence. China's tests were extremely limited and would cease the moment the CTBT came into effect.

* * *

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator James Gustave Speth has called for urgent action to fight the global threat to desertification and drought. He was addressing the eighth session, in Geneva, this week, of the negotiating committee for the Convention to Combat Desertification. Mr. Speth underscored the fact that dryland issues figure prominently in UNDP's normal work, which, he said, placed a strategic priority on poverty elimination and environmental regeneration. He proposed that UNDP could co-host the funding mechanism with IFAD and undertake pilot actions to combat desertification to avoid delays in implementing the Convention.

* * *

Despite the first signs of economic recovery, it would be the end of the century before countries in transition, from centrally planned to market economies, regained 1989 output levels, according to a recent study by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). The study provides an analysis of industrial restructuring in countries in transition, as well as the situation in three Baltic States and eight members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

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The economic slump, which followed radical political changes in 1989, had been deeper than expected, however, factors other than the transition process probably played a part, the study says. It cites the collapse of the market within the Soviet trading bloc and imbalances, particularly between industrial production and consumption. Despite the disintegration of old economic systems and traditional trade links, industry in most of the countries still relied heavily on markets in other transition economies and the newly independent States.

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UNITED NATIONS

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Member States owe United Nations over $3.3 billion as of 31 January; $1.4 billion owed to regular budget, $1.9 billion to peace-keeping and $11.7 million to International Tribunals.

* UNESCO strongly condemns "murderous" attacks on Algerian press; offers to help rebuild newspaper offices destroyed in car-bombing.

* Experts from 30 countries focus on increasing problem of illicit manufacture, traffic and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants.

* Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy to discuss impact of energy use on atmosphere and potential of biomass.

* Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on Outer Space begins two-week session in Vienna; to focus on space debris threat and new uses for small satellites.

* * *

As of 31 January, Member States owed the United Nations a total of over $3.3 billion, according to the latest update on the Organization's financial situation. Of that amount, $1.4 billion was for assessments to the regular budget and $1.9 billion was for peace-keeping operations. An additional $11.7 million was owed for the International Tribunals. Included in the figures for peace-keeping and the Tribunals are assessments of $293 million within the 30-day due period.

* * *

The Director-General of the United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Federico Mayor, today strongly condemned "murderous attacks" on Algerian press over the weekend. At least 18 people were killed and more than 50 injured, when a car-bomb exploded yesterday in front of the Tahar Djaout press centre in Algiers. The editor-in-chief of Le Soir d'Algerie reportedly died in the blast which destroyed the offices of several newspapers. On Saturday, another newsman was shot dead near Blida, south of Algiers.

(more)

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The bombing of the Tahar Djaout centre was a particularly vicious strike at the very symbol of the country's free press, Mr. Mayor said. The wholesale destruction and killing directed at Algeria's information channels must not discourage those who continued to carry out a mission vital to the public discourse in a democracy, he added, and offered UNESCO assistance to re-establish the centre.

Mr. Mayor also condemned the murder today of a Filipino journalist and human rights lawyer, Ferdinand Reyes, in Dipolog, Zamboanga Del Norte Province, 700 kilometres south of Manila. He encouraged all Member States to ensure free and secure working conditions for journalists.

* * *

Experts from 30 countries began meeting in Vienna today to study the world's growing problem with the illicit manufacture, traffic and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs called for the five-day meeting which will try and identify the scope, nature and magnitude of the problem. According to a United Nations study, abuse of the stimulants could become greater than drugs of natural origin because of availability, cheap price, low risk and consumer preference.

The study, by the United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), in consultation with the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), examines the licit use of the drugs and their spread to the illicit market. It acknowledges the difficulty of estimating the extent of abuse at the global level, due to a lack of uniform and comparable data. The experts hope to fill that information gap. The abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants appears to be spreading and in some places it is bypassing heroin and cocaine.

* * *

The Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development will discuss the impact of energy use on the atmosphere and the potential of biomass during its second regular session which began at United Nations Headquarters today. Other topics include the efficient use of energy and materials and energy exploration in developing countries. Biomass, when produced efficiently, has many potential environmental and social benefits, including job creation, energy for rural communities in developing countries, improved land management and a reduction of carbon dioxide and sulphur levels.

A recent report of the Secretary-General examines the protection of the atmosphere from the effects of human energy and prevailing trends in energy use. It suggests strategies for mitigating and avoiding adverse impacts of possible climate change, as well as sustainable development policies to protect the atmosphere. According to another report, fossil fuels will dominate the energy needs of developed and developing countries well into the next century. Developing countries, already burdened with high oil import bills, will have

difficulty mobilizing capital to meet their energy requirements. Significant research and development will be needed to realize the enormous potential of renewable energy technologies in developing countries.

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The threat posed by space debris will a key focus of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, during its two-week session, which began in Vienna today. There is growing alarm at the hazards caused by defunct satellites and other fragments of objects in the crowded earth orbit, especially the added threat of collision with nuclear-powered space objects. The Subcommittee will review the latest scientific research on the problem and steps by space agencies to reduce the growth or damage potential of debris, as well as technical options for dealing with it.

The Subcommittee will also examine new uses for small, low-cost satellites, particularly for developing countries, in such fields as communications, earth resource monitoring, disaster warning and long-distance education. According to a recent report, such areas are ideal for extensive international cooperation and could involve countries with modest research budgets and little or no experience in space technology. The 61-member Subcommittee is the focal point of multilateral cooperation in space technology and research.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/2080
13 February 1996

T U E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

* Security Council approves position of Force Commander for UNPREDEP; authorizes 50 additional military personnel.

* Secretary-General welcomes decision in Sierra Leone to keep 26 February as date for presidential and legislative elections.

* Cooperation between United Nations and regional organizations a growth industry, according to Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

* Urban farming helps hundreds of millions of city-dwellers worldwide combat poverty and malnutrition, according to UNDP report.

* Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy should set targets for global action, says its Chairman.

* Financing of Habitat II preparations had not affected programmes of United Nations Centre for Human Settlements according to Secretary-General of Conference.

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The Security Council today approved the position of Force Commander for the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In unanimously adopting resolution 1046 (1996), the Council authorized 50 additional military personnel to ensure UNPREDEP has continued engineering capability during its current mandate, which expires on 30 May. The Secretary-General was asked to submit, by 20 May, further recommendations on the Force's composition, strength and mandate.

The Secretary-General had recommended that UNPREDEP, formerly under the command and control of the United Nations Peace Forces Headquarters (UNPF-HQ) in the former Yugoslavia, be established as an independent mission, reporting directly to United Nations Headquarters in New York.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was very pleased to learn that the National Consultative Conference on Elections in Sierra Leone had decided

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overwhelmingly to maintain 26 February as the date for Presidential and legislative elections, a United Nations spokesman said today. The Secretary-General commended the Government and the Chairman of the National Provisional Ruling Council, and Head of State, Brigadier Julius Maada Bio, for their commitment to the democratic process.

The Secretary-General called on the Provisional Council, the Interim National Electoral Commission and the political parties to work together to fully implement the decision of the Consultative Conference. He emphasized the importance of the NPRC ensuring the safety and security of voters, polling stations and electoral workers.

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Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in the fields of peace and security is a growth industry, according to the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Marrack Goulding. He told correspondents today, that the growing reluctance by Member States to finance major United Nations peace-keeping operations raised the question of whether more could be done on the preventive side and whether more peace-keeping could be sub-contracted to regional organizations. A second meeting between the United Nations and the heads of 13 regional organizations on 15 and 16 February will examine peace-making and peace-keeping, as well as preventive diplomacy and post-conflict peace-building.

Mr. Goulding said the meeting would focus on finding new, practical and more effective ways of working together. The five main areas of cooperation were: consultation, which had been going on a long time; diplomatic support; the new field of operational support; co-deployment as for example in Georgia, where the UN worked with the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS); and joint operations like the one in Haiti with the Organization of American States (OAS). There had been enormous and striking progress in developing operational cooperation between the United Nations and the North Atlantic Organization (NATO) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, he continued. Despite political differences, two organizations with totally different mandates and philosophies -- one dedicated to the peaceful settlement of disputes and the other a military organization created to win wars -- had worked together with great operational success.

* * *

Food produced in garbage dumps, vacant lots and on rooftops is helping to lift hundreds of millions of people out of extreme poverty and is improving the health and nutrition of city-dwellers, according to a report by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). There are 800 million urban farmers in both developed and developing countries, particularly in Asia, who grow crops on their rooftops, keep livestock in backyards and raise fish in streams and ponds. The sector provides food for the extreme poor, income and low-cost,

high-quality food for the "stable poor" and savings and a return on investment in urban property for middle-income families.

According to the report, Governments and the international community have misunderstood and underrated the potential of urban agriculture, which could become a formidable economic force in the next century. It is a competitive economic activity and the industry of choice for millions of urban entrepreneurs. It also provides income-generating opportunities for people with low skills and little capital, as well as those with limited mobility, including women, children and the aged.

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The Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development should not hesitate to set targets for global action as Governments and international agencies considered its reports closely, Chairman, E.V.R. Sastry, said yesterday. The Committee might think about suggesting concrete actions within the United Nations itself, he added. The Committee, whose expert members are nominated by governments and elected by the Social and Economic Council, began a two-week session yesterday. It also addresses energy issues contained in Agenda 21, the programme of action adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

The Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, Nitin Desai, said the United Nations financial crisis had directly affected the Committee's work, and postponing the current session for a year had been considered. However, it was the only body which considered all aspects of energy issues and there was a need to bring expert opinion to bear on political decision-making in the area of sustainable development.

* * *

The programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) had not suffered because it had advanced some available funds to finance preparations for the upcoming United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), according to the Secretary-General of the Conference, Wally N'Dow. In a statement today, Mr. N'Dow said all agencies with conferences to run had made similar contributions from their resources. The Centre was the Secretariat for the Conference and had made it a high priority programme and activity, contributing funds openly and transparently. Already, $500,000 had been paid back.

Mr. N'Dow said the General Assembly had voted $7 million to finance Habitat I in 1976 compared with $1.7 million for Habitat II which was a fraction of the Conference's cost. However, an additional $23 million had been mobilized and 96 per cent of the resources needed for Habitat II would come from external sources.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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14 February 1996

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Two senior Bosnian Serb military officers detained by International Criminal Tribunal might provide important information on other investigations, says Prosecutor.

- Over 13,000 UNITA soldiers register at quartering sites; more than 2,000 troops from Angolan Government's rapid reaction force also quartered.

- United Nations-sponsored Guatemalan peace talks to resume next week in Mexico City; Secretary-General urges parties to show flexibility.

- Huairou Commission established to ensure Habitat II preparations and follow-up are gender sensitive.

- UNESCO announces world solar summit will be held in Zimbabwe next September; to promote greater use of renewable and non-polluting energies.

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Two senior Bosnian Serb military officers, detained by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, might be able to provide investigators with important information relevant to other inquiries, according to Prosecutor, Justice Richard Goldstone. However, it was premature to speculate on how, if at all, they could help, he said. General Djordje Djukic and Colonel Aleksa Krsmanovic, who had been transferred from Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Tribunal's detention centre in The Hague, were suspected of serious violations of international humanitarian law. They had been transferred after being formally summoned for questioning under Tribunal rules which did not specify how long people might be held in custody in such circumstances. However, prolonged, pre-trial detention was only possible after a person had been indicted. Therefore, further urgent inquiries were being undertaken and questioning had begun, he added.

Justice Goldstone said the two men would be questioned in the presence of their own counsel and assisted by an interpreter, if they wished. They had

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already been informed of their right to remain silent. He stressed that his policy was to investigate and prosecute those who might be responsible for war crimes, irrespective of their political or ethnic group. Investigations were evidence-driven, and he welcomed information on all crimes and all persons who might be responsible. For this reason, he was eager to open a liaison office in Belgrade and was concerned that, while the authorities had agreed in principle, his staff had not received permission to take up their posts. He welcomed the Bosnian Government's announcement that it would only arrest and detain persons for serious humanitarian violations -- other than those indicted -- after a decision by the International Tribunal.

* * *

In Angola, 13,368 soldiers from the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) have registered at four quartering sites, and approximately 12,000 of them had turned in their weapons, a United Nations spokesman said today. According to an agreement between the parties, some 16,500 UNITA troops should have been quartered by 8 February. On the government side, 2,179 soldiers out of a declared strength of 2,445 troops from its rapid reaction force were quartered in three different sites yesterday.

* * *

The Guatemalan Government and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) will resume negotiations in Mexico City on 22 and 23 February, a United Nations spokesman said today. At their first meeting, the parties will continue consideration of the social and economic aspects of the agrarian situation in the country. The United Nations invited the parties to resume talks following the Government's appointment of its negotiating commission earlier this week.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has urged the parties to show flexibility in their negotiations and to respond to hopes in Guatemala and the international community that rapid progress will be made at the negotiation table, the spokesman said. The Secretary-General reiterated his willingness to help the parties build on the agreements already concluded and promptly reach a comprehensive and lasting peace.

* * *

A new advisory body has been created to ensure women's concerns are addressed during preparations for the upcoming United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). Named the Huairou Commission, after the Chinese city which hosted the non-governmental forum for the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Commission will advise the Secretary-General of Habitat II, Wally N'Dow, on gender issues during Conference preparations and

follow-up. Mr. N'Dow told correspondents today the Commission would build on the experience and commitment of the Beijing Conference. Habitat II's goal of adequate shelter for all in the context of a sustainable human settlements would be meaningless unless the world community moved forward hand-in-hand with women, he added.

The Huairou Commission's mandate is to highlight women's concerns in the creation of human settlements; ensure Habitat II's agenda reflects their central decision-making roles and responsibilities; develop a programme so women's organizational capacity can build on Habitat II's results; and identify and establish a "Best Practices" which reflect women's concerns and input. Mr. N'Dow said the Commission would be made up of women with exceptional experience and its establishment had received support from the United Nations community, governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and the youth movement.

* * *

A world solar summit to promote greater use of renewable and non-polluting energies will be held in Harare, Zimbabwe, in September, a representative of the United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO) announced yesterday. Mr. Alfatih I. Hama told the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development that preparations were being overseen by the world solar commission. It is chaired by Zimbabwe's President, Robert Mugabe, and made up of 15 heads of State and government serving in their personal capacities.

Mr. Hama said a series of technical and ministerial-level meetings had been organized in all regions to identify priorities. He reiterated UNESCO's invitation for the Committee to associate itself with the world solar programme and consider the summit's results. Several Committee experts asked for information on financial aspects of the summit; whether it would concentrate on research and development or education and United Nations support. One expert said he had detected a lack of interest in the summit by developed countries and feared it could turn into a gathering of only developing countries.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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15 February 1996

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council deeply concerned that conflict in Afghanistan could destablilize region; calls for an end to fighting and lifting of blockade around Kabul.

- Security Council welcomes decision in Sierra Leone to maintain 26 February as date for national elections.

- Secretary-General notes growing importance of regionalism in international affairs; says United Nations alone cannot deal with all threats to international peace and security.

- Secretary-General recommends mandate of UNMIH be extended for further six months at substantially reduced strength.

* * *

The Security Council today deeply deplored the continued fighting which had brought death and destruction to Afghanistan and threatened peace and security in the region. The Council President, Madeleine Albright (United States), read a statement expressing particular concern at intensified shelling and air attacks in and around the Afghan capital of Kabul and the blockade which had prevented the delivery of food, fuel and other humanitarian supplies to the city. The Council called on the parties to end hostilities and immediately lift the blockade. It commended efforts by the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies, and the airlift of food from Peshawar, Pakistan, to Kabul and urged the international community to continue supporting those life-saving efforts.

The Council expressed deep concern that the conflict was a fertile ground for terrorism, illicit arms transfers and drug trafficking which destabilize the whole region and beyond. It called on the leaders of the Afghan parties to put aside their differences and halt such activities. The Council also called on all Afghans to cooperate with efforts by the United Nations Special Mission in Afghanistan to find a peaceful solution through the establishment of a representative, broad-based, authoritative council acceptable to all Afghans. States, in a position to do so, were urged to promote peace and stability in Afghanistan, cooperate with the United Nations Mission and refrain from interfering in Afghanistan's internal affairs. The Council called on all States to prevent the flow of weapons and other supplies

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that could fuel the fighting. It urged the captors of the crew of the Russian aircraft in Kandahar to release them immediately without preconditions.

* * *

In another action today, the Security Council welcomed the overwhelming support by Sierra Leone's National Consultative Conference for the decision to maintain 26 February as the date for national elections. It also welcomed the Government's renewed promise, through the Chairman of the National Provisional Ruling Council, to hold the elections as scheduled and noted his confirmation that necessary technical arrangements for the elections were in place. The Council reiterated that holding free and fair elections, as scheduled, was critically important to the country's transition to democratic constitutional rule.

Any delay or interruption in the electoral process was likely to erode donor support and greatly increase the potential for further instability and violence with devastating consequences for Sierra Leone's people, the Council stated. It cautioned groups and individuals not to disrupt through violence or intimidation the elections which the great majority of people supported. It called on the Government to fulfil its undertaking to ensure a safe and free electoral environment. The Council urged all parties to end the violence and welcomed initial contacts between the Government and the Revolutionary United Front. It called on the Front to renew its cease-fire and enter into a full peace dialogue without any conditions.

The Council expressed continued concern about the humanitarian situation and suffering as a result of the conflict and called on member States to continue to provide humanitarian assistance. It commended the Secretary-General's efforts to assist the elections, particularly the establishment of the Joint International Observer Group. It also commended the work of his Special Envoy to support the democratic transition and to facilitate peace negotiations between the Government and the Front. The Council asked the Secretary-General to monitor the situation and to keep it informed of all significant developments.

* * *

Regional Organizations were becoming increasingly important as a force in international affairs, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. Addressing the opening of the second meeting today between the United Nations and regional organizations, he said the United Nations, by itself, could not possible deal with all the threats to international peace and security. It had been given vast responsibilities, but not the political, military, material and financial resources to accomplish its objectives. The severe financial crisis would affect the UN's ability to undertake new tasks and some activities and missions might be phased out. A division of labour

between the UN and regional organizations -- or delegation from the UN to those organizations -- had become urgent.

There was also an imbalance in the way tasks were assigned to the UN and regional organizations, the Secretary-General said. In Bosnia, a small and lightly armed UN force had been sent as peace-keepers into a continuing war. Now, paradoxically, a massive and well armed North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) combat force had been sent to monitor the peace. The concepts were upside down. One solution to the imbalance in resources would be greater inter-organizational cooperation.

The Secretary-General said the international community must be careful in assigning tasks and allocating resources. The potential or actual conflict must be ripe for international treatment and respond well to it. Appropriate methods included good offices, mediation, arbitration, peace-keeping, sanctions and military enforcement. The comparative advantages and disadvantages of organizations should be carefully weighed and certain questions addressed. Would the UN or a regional organization be more acceptable to the parties? Would the impartiality of a regional organization be questioned because of its members' own national interests?

A universal model for cooperation between the UN and regional organizations was not feasible, he continued. A pragmatic and flexible approach, which took into account the types of cooperation and organizations involved, had a better chance of success. Preventive and post-conflict peace-building was likely to be an important area of cooperation. In Bosnia, the UN was cooperating very closely with several regional organizations, including NATO and the European Union to implement the Dayton Peace Agreement.

* * *

The Secretary-General has recommended that the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) be extended for a further six months until 29 August. In a report to the Security Council dated 14 February, he also recommended that the mission's numbers be substantially reduced to approximately 2,000 personnel from its current strength of just over 4,500. The Secretary-General said he proposed the reduction in numbers partly because some of the Mission's responsibilities had been transferred to new institutions which it had helped establish in Haiti and partly because of the United Nations financial crisis.

The Secretary-General said the Haitian people had started on the long road towards a peaceful and democratic society. But they and their leaders knew that although they could be proud of their achievements during the short period since the restoration of constitutional government, they still faced formidable challenges. It was essential that the continued commitment he was asking the international community to make towards Haiti, at a time of acute

financial crisis in the United Nations, be matched with a renewed commitment by the Haitian people, their political and civilian leaders and their Government. The opportunity was unique in Haiti's long and turbulent history and could not be missed without grave consequences, he said.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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16 February 1996

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

* Secretary-General for Habitat II says new partnerships between Governments, private sector and non-governmental organizations help shape Conference's agenda.

* Nearly one-fourth of UNITA's troops and large part of Angolan Government's rapid reaction police register at quartering sites.

* UNHCR's humanitarian activities for refugees in Great Lakes Region of Africa threatened by severe funding shortfall.

* Protection of atmosphere precondition for sustainable economic development, experts tell Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy.

* Television series "UN in Action" rated highly by viewers and broadcasters, according to DPI survey.

* WHO announces influenza vaccine formula for 1996-97.

* * *

The real issue before the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) was how to provide healthy, sustainable living spaces for a growing human population in a finite world, according to its Secretary-General, Wally N' Dow. The Conference will be held in Istanbul, Turkey in June. Mr. N'Dow told correspondents today that new partnerships based on the willingness of national governments to work with local authorities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector had played an important role in preparing Habitat II's agenda. Those partnerships would continue to have strong voices in the process leading to Istanbul. They would also set an important precedent for future United Nations humanitarian activities.

Since the first Habitat Conference 20 years ago, the classical idea that Governments were the "be all and end all" had changed, he continued. Governments could no longer afford to act alone. The private sector's role in building and maintaining cities was universally accepted and non-governmental organizations had gained tremendous advocacy and power. People in communities

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and neighbourhoods must be encouraged to act and participate in their own welfare. There had been intense debate during the preparatory sessions on the concept of the right to housing, which was increasingly seen as a way to improve people's welfare. It was an issue which would be taken up again in Istanbul and beyond, he added.

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In Angola, 14,102 troops from the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) have been disarmed and registered at four quartering sites, according to a United Nations spokesman. She said 1,079 soldiers had reported without weapons and those handed in were mainly small arms. Although the quartering of a fourth of UNITA's force in the last two weeks was very encouraging, its declared strength numbered 62,500 troops, she added.

Four additional quartering sites will be operational in the next few days and would hold about 20,000 troops, the spokesman said. A large part of the Government's rapid reaction police had been quartered at three sites. However, troops still had to be quartered in seven or eight cities. Meanwhile, the Government and UNITA were negotiating in Luanda on remaining issues including the formation of a national army.

* * *

The United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR) might have to drastically reduce its humanitarian programmes for refugees in the Great Lakes Region of Africa because of a serious shortfall in funding. A United Nations spokesman said today the Agency had received $26 million from the European Commission's Humanitarian Office and $1 million from Norway to fund programmes which would cost an estimated $288 million this year. Already, money had been borrowed from the UNHCR's emergency fund, its general fund for voluntary repatriation and other programmes.

The UNHCR's voluntary repatriation programme for Rwanda might be severely set back, affecting its ability to cope in the event of a large scale return of refugees, the spokesman said. There could also be cutbacks in the delivery of water, sanitation and health services and the Agency might not be able to go ahead with plans to build 30,000 shelters for returnees. Activities in family unification and trauma treatment might have to be curtailed.

* * *

Protection of the atmosphere was a precondition for ensuring sustainable economic development, the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development was told yesterday. An official from the United

Nations Energy and Natural Resources Branch presented a paper which examines the relationship between energy and development, worldwide trends in energy usage and strategies for mitigating and avoiding the adverse impact of possible climate change.

According to the paper, environmental protection faces competing social and political concerns such as the eradication of poverty and the provision of health care and employment opportunities. One expert said developing countries faced difficult choices between their energy requirements and the negative impact of power plants. Another said carbon outputs had been relatively stable due to slowing production in Eastern Europe but were likely to increase as developing economies expanded and economies in transition increased their levels of production.

* * *

The United Nations television series "UN in Action", which is aired weekly on more than 100 stations around the world, has been rated as excellent or very good by viewers and broadcasters, according to a recent survey by the Department of Public Information (DPI). The three-minute video news items show how the UN handles and copes with such issues as humanitarian affairs, the environment, social or economic development, refugees and peace-keeping. The series is also broadcast weekly on CNN World Report which is seen by two million people in the United States and by a much larger number in more than 140 countries that receive CNN International.

The DPI survey, which evaluated the reach and impact of the series, found that 76 per cent of viewers indicated the series contributed significantly to their knowledge and understanding of the United Nations work. Over 46 per cent of stations broadcast the series on their prime-time newscast and another 25 per cent aired it during other newscasts. Some 70 per cent of broadcasters indicated they would air more episodes if produced and 50 per cent said they would be interested in a monthly half-hour magazine programme.

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The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced a new influenza composition for the 1996-97 season. Every February, experts advise national health authorities and pharmaceutical companies on the composition of virus strains that should be used to produce vaccines for the next influenza season.

The WHO strongly advises the use of the vaccine as a preventive measure against the potentially fatal disease, particularly by the elderly, people with immunodeficiency, chronic heart or lung diseases and diabetes.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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20 February 1996

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General proposes standby multinational force for humanitarian intervention in Burundi.
- Decolonization successes have changed international landscape, Secretary-General tells Special Committee on Decolonization.
- Talks between United Nations and Iraq on "oil-for-food" formula conclude.
- Major portions of Habitat II's statement of principles and global plan of action approved; Conference Secretary-General confident ongoing negotiations will achieve consensus.
- WHO reports Ebola fever outbreak in Gabon.
- Chairman of Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy calls for global energy conference in 2001.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has proposed a standby multinational force be established for humanitarian intervention in Burundi. In a report to the Security Council, dated 15 February, he said the force would deter massacres, provide security to refugees, displaced people and civilians at risk, and protect key economic installations. Under the proposal, countries would earmark contingents to serve with the force and keep them trained, fully equipped and ready for deployment at short notice. In a worst-case scenario, up to 25,000 troops would be deployed by strategic air and sea lift and include parachute, motorized and mechanized units. If the parties in Burundi did not adopt a hostile attitude, only some standby units would be used and the force could be reduced to an estimated 5,000 to 8,000 troops. Any attack against the multinational force would draw an immediate and forceful response, but it would be strictly humanitarian and would not engage in combat against the parties unless they interfered with its mandate, he added.

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The multinational force would be established under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter and led by one Member State, the Secretary-General said. Recent UN experiences in the former Yugoslavia, Somalia, Haiti and Rwanda suggested that, when there was no consent or peace to keep, better results were more likely through a multinational operation which could create conditions for a subsequent UN peace-keeping operation. One or more neighbouring countries would provide staging areas to train, coordinate and integrate units before operations were launched into Burundi. The advance deployment of a force headquarters and core logistic elements in a neighbouring country could strengthen the force's rapid deployment capability and enhance its credibility. It could also underscore the international community's resolve not to allow another genocide in the Great Lakes region of Africa.

The Secretary-General noted efforts by Burundi's President and Prime Minister had calmed the country somewhat. But the situation was still "desperately serious" and it would be irresponsible not to plan contingency measures to avoid a catastrophe, he said. Although the Government's official response to United Nations action was negative it was widely believed in the capital, Bujumbura, that strong steps by the Council were essential. The international community -- including the Council, individual donor countries and Burundi's neighbours -- must act in a coherent and concerted way, otherwise extremists on both sides would exploit differences and destabilize the country with impunity. Some of the Burundian military and their extremist allies were the ones most opposed to the concept of international intervention or preventive deployment, he said.

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The successes of the Special Committee on Decolonization had changed the international landscape, according to the Secretary-General. In an opening statement read by Under-Secretary-General Chinmaya R. Gharekhan, to the opening of the Committee's 1996 session, the Secretary-General said because of its efforts many Member States had joined the United Nations. He pointed out that there were still some 17 non-self-governing territories, all of which enjoyed the right to self-determination with options which included independence, free association with another State or integrating with another State. Not all were in the same category.

The Secretary-General said the great majority were small island Territories which suffer from various handicaps, including limited size, remoteness, vulnerability to natural disasters, lack of natural resources, as well as migration of skilled personnel. In recognition of that fact, the General Assembly had asked the Special Committee to pay particular attention to the small territories in order to promote political, economic and social conditions conducive to the exercise of their right to self-determination. Constructive cooperation between the Special Committee and the administering Powers was

vitally important, as was regular contact between the Committee and the representatives of the Territories, in order to accelerate self-determination.

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Talks between the United Nations and Iraq on the "oil-for-food" formula ended in New York yesterday, according to a United Nations spokesman. Under the terms of Security Council Resolution 986 (1995) a limited amount of Iraqi oil -- up to $2 billion worth over six months -- is permitted in exchange for medicine and food. Part of the proceeds from the oil sales will go to the United Nations Compensation Committee Fund in Geneva to help workers who suffered as a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

After the talks ended, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, Hans Correll, told correspondents that much hard work had been done. He stressed that the talks had been technical which was the normal procedure before decisions could be taken at the political level. He said many quite complicated technical aspects behind the texts of the resolution had been discovered. That meant detailed discussions on such issues as oil production and sale handling of the escrow account, the purchase and transport of food, bank transactions, the distribution plan and the equitable distribution of humanitarian supplies.

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The Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) concluded its final session Friday with conditional approval of major portions of a proposed statement of principles and global plan of action. The proposed final document, "The Habitat Agenda", is a global call to action and a guide for achieving sustainable development of the world's cities, towns and villages for the next 20 years. Due to time constraints, portions of the final document will be submitted to the Conference as having been informally negotiated during the preparatory process, but not formally approved. Habitat II will be held in Istanbul, Turkey in June.

A number of issues in the final text were still unresolved, including the right to adequate housing, an institutional arrangement for follow up to the plan of action and financial resources needed for its implementation. According to the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, Martti Lujanen, those issues would be taken up during informal negotiations before Istanbul and formally during pre-Conference consultations.

Conference Secretary-General Wally N'Dow said that negotiations had been long and arduous and there were many brackets on issues and phraseology. He expressed confidence that, in spite of difficulties, the negotiating process

would succeed, and when it was over -- which might not be until Istanbul -- there would be a global plan of action which would reflect a global consensus. Enormous progress had been made in evaluating and understanding the notion of the right to housing, he said. There had also been gains in agreement on the affirmative obligations of government to make housing habitable, affordable and accessible.

* * *

As of today, 20 cases and 7 suspected cases of the Ebola haemorrhagic fever, have been reported in Gabon, 13 of them fatal, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Scientists working on specimens of 9 youths hospitalized in the provincial town of Makokou have confirmed the initial diagnosis of Ebola virus. The 20 cases were reported in Mayibout II, an isolated village of approximately 150 people, 140 kilometers from the capital, Libreville. Twelve of the dead had direct contact with the blood of a dead chimpanzee. No cases of Ebola virus have been reported among the health personnel treating the sick, though some might have been exposed and infected with the disease.

An international team of medical experts has arrived in Mayibout II and is investigating the patients' possible contacts, as well as rumours of illness in two neighbouring villages. For the time being, WHO has not recommended any travel restrictions to or within Gabon. It said with proper isolation of people with suspected Ebola virus there would be no need for quarantine measures. The early action by the Gabonese Ministry of Health had been prompt and effective.

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The United Nations should consider convening in the year 2001 a major global conference on energy, according to the Chairman of Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development, E.V.R. Sastry. He suggested that the theme of the conference might be energy for the twenty-first century or energy for sustainable development.

Responding favorably to the suggestion, one committee member said that in an era of declining research and development budgets it would be a good way to see if the international community was serious about energy. He proposed an energy charter modeled on the one developed by the European Union. Another member said a conference could consider a political text and a legally binding treaty which would deal with trade in energy, the integration of regional energy grids, dispute settlement and investment in energy resources.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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21 February 1996

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General recommends mandate of United Nations component of International Civilian Mission in Haiti be extended until 31 August.

* Secretary-General says human rights violations in Croatia much lower in last two months; UN's ability to monitor human rights in region now very limited.

* Tensions high in Serb-controlled suburbs of Sarajevo; additional UN police monitors to accompany Federation police and IFOR troops on Friday.

* Secretary-General addresses Council of Foreign Relations in Washington.

* UNITA leader says he will accelerate quartering of his troops and meet soon with Angolan President.

* UN issues supplementary humanitarian appeal for Caucasus.

* Special Committee on UN Charter begins two-week session in New York.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended the mandate of the United Nations component of the International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH), be extended until 31 August. In a report to the General Assembly, dated 15 February, the Secretary-General said personnel should be reduced to not more than 32 international staff, with the United Nations deploying administrative and programme support. The Organization of American States (OAS) will provide another 32 international staff and the UN/OAS agreement of 13 January 1995 will remain in effect during the new mandate.

The Mission will still have a central office and the number of regional offices will be determined by programme needs and available resources, the

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Secretary-General said. Based on field reports, MICIVIH will evaluate reforms, the functioning of institutions with regard to the protection of human rights and the impact of the human rights programme. He reiterated that, given the United Nations financial crisis, the Assembly would have to appropriate additional funds to cover MICIVIH costs during its new mandate and give assurances the funds would be available.

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Human rights violations in Croatia, particularly in Krajina and Western Slavonia, over the last two months were much lower than those recorded immediately after Croatia's military operations in the area last summer, according to the Secretary-General. He said, however, the potential for recurrence was substantial and the absence of a responsible local police presence was a concern. In his report to the Security Council, dated 14 February, the Secretary-General said the Croatian Government's 28 January report was a welcome, if incomplete, statement of intended policy and operational initiatives to improve its human rights record.

The Secretary-General said continued monitoring of the judicial process was needed to ensure the widespread criminality in the region last year did not go unaddressed. He commended "belated" Government steps to address the humanitarian needs of elderly Croatian Serbs, but said continued vigilance was needed and financial and human resources were insufficient. There had been little progress in the return of Croatian Serb refugees, which the Government indicated would be addressed during the normalization of relations with the Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). However, that process should not delay the return of persons who met legal conditions, the Secretary-General added. He hoped 389 people charged with crimes during last year's conflict would receive fair judicial proceedings and Croatia would even consider granting them amnesty.

The United Nations ability to assess further developments would be limited now that the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO) mandate had ended, the Secretary-General said. The number of human rights monitors in the region had been drastically reduced. There was only small team from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), two officers from the Centre for Human Rights, working in support of the Special Rapporteur and the Expert on Missing Persons, as well as some representatives from international non-governmental organizations.

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Tensions remain high in Bosnian Serb-controlled suburbs of Sarajevo, a United Nations spokesman said today. The Serb population was continuing to move out of the area, especially from Vogosca. Under the terms of the Dayton peace accord, Sarajevo's Serbian-held suburbs will come under Bosnian

Government control by March 19. In Rome over the weekend, the Presidents of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) agreed to establish a joint police force to help relieve tensions among the Serb population, particularly in Sarajevo.

The spokesman said police from the Bosnian Croat Federation were expected to move into the suburbs on Friday, accompanied by monitors from the United Nations International Police task Force (IPTF) and troops from the International Force (IFOR). There were already 54 UN civilian police monitors stationed in Vogosca and 295 out of IPTF's authorized strength of 1,721 were now serving throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, the spokesman added. Another 174 were in Zagreb waiting to be deployed.

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The Secretary-General is in Washington today where he will address the Council on Foreign Relations on "The United Nations: changing institution, changing agenda", according to a UN spokesman. United States Congressman James Leach, Republican of Iowa, who is also a member of the House International Relations Committee will introduce the Secretary-General. Dr. Boutros-Ghali is accompanied by the Under Secretary-General for Administration and Management, Joseph Connor.

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The head of the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), Joseph Savimbi has assured the Secretary-General that he intends to accelerate the quartering of UNITA troops. According to a United Nations spokesman, Mr. Savimbi, who spoke to the Secretary-General by phone yesterday, also said he would meet as soon as possible with Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos. To date, 16,342 UNITA soldiers have been quartered in various sites, the spokesman said.

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The United Nations today asked donors for an additional $37 million for operations in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia during the first five months of 1996. The additional funding is needed to address urgent humanitarian needs of refugees, internally displaced persons and other vulnerable groups. The supplement provides a two-month extension to the consolidated appeal issued for the period April 1995 to March 1996 and allows time to complete a comprehensive assessment of humanitarian needs in the region.

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The Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization began a two-week session at UN

Headquarters today. The Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, Hans Corell said that the previously 47-member body was now open to all Member States. It had been entrusted with considering such questions as the maintenance of peace and security and the peaceful settlement of disputes between States and the strengthening of the United Nations.

Mr. Corell said the Committee should consider the Secretary-General's proposals on how to implement provisions on helping third States affected by sanctions imposed under Chapter VII of the Charter. On international peace and security, he said the Committee should allow time to consider Cuba's proposals on strengthening the UN's role and enhancing its effectiveness, as well as Libya's revised proposal on enhancing the effectiveness of the Security Council.

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